

GENERAL ORDERS

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 23 April 1970

No. 8

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:



Private First Class *James W. Fous*, [REDACTED], United States Army, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 14 May 1968 while serving as a rifleman with Company E, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Private *Fous* was participating in a reconnaissance-in-force mission in Kien Hoa Province when his unit formed its perimeter defense for the night. Private *Fous*, together with three other American soldiers, occupied a position in a thickly vegetated area facing a woodline. Private *Fous* detected three Viet Cong maneuvering toward his position and, after alerting the other men, directed accurate fire upon the enemy soldiers, silencing two of them. The third Viet Cong soldier managed to escape in the thick vegetation after throwing a handgrenade into Private *Fous*' position. Without hesitation, Private *Fous* shouted a warning to his comrades and leaped upon the lethal explosive, absorbing the blast with his own body to save the lives of the three men in the area at the sacrifice of his own life. Private *Fous*' conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism at the cost of his own life were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.



GO 8

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
*Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.*

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
*General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.*

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